

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Watanabe.

The Applicant traverses the rejections and request reconsideration.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

A. Rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Watanabe.

In responding to the arguments made by the Applicant in the response filed on May 7, 2004, the Examiner appears to read the terms concentrators and exchange over broadly to read on Watanabe. The Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 6 to include definitions for concentrators and exchange. Specifically, the Applicant respectfully submits that concentrators concentrate signals from a set of downstream transmission lines to a fewer number of transmission lines. Likewise, an exchange communicates between a concentrator on one end and a backbone network on the other end.

The Applicant reiterates that the destination side of Watanabe cannot be considered to be a concentrator as defined in the independent claims. Further, Watanabe's source side cannot be considered to be an exchange as defined in the independent claims. Watanabe merely discloses a single source machine sending ATM cells through a switch to a single destination machine.

Claims 2-5 and 7-10 are dependant on claims 1 and 6, and therefore, are allowable for the same reasons.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No.: 09/332,996

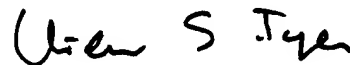
Attorney Docket No.: Q54651

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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